

- *Factoid:* In 2020, there were 607,922 deaths registered in England & Wales; an increase of 14.5% compared with 530,841 in 2019

Top Tips for Clinicians on Death Certification

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Subject	Death Certification
Review	29.3.21/29.3.22.
Top Tip 1	Can I issue the certificate if I have seen the patient “in person” within 28 days of death? -YES
Top Tip 2	Can I issue the certificate if I have seen the patient “on video” within 28 days of death? -Yes
Top Tip 3	Will Local Care Direct continue to issue the certificate on weekends and bank holidays? - No, the LCD led out of hours’ service will cease from 24th March 2022.
Top Tip 4	Can I email the death certificate to registrar office? Yes. Please continue to scan the MCCD’s, back and front, and email to registrar as you are doing during pandemic, as this ensures any issues can be sorted out before the family attend their face-to-face appointment and saves the family a trip to the practice to collect the MCCD in person.
Top Tip 5	Do I have to see the body after death in person to issue cremation form? Ongoing discussion nationally amongst Local Medical Committees and locally with registrar and coroner. Further information will follow. Until further information it is advised that the doctor signing the Cremation form needs to view the body in person after death
Top Tip 6	Can I electronically complete cremation form? Yes
Top Tip 7	If there is no medical practitioner available who has seen the patient during their life, what would be the process of issuing the certificate? In accord with the practices and legislation, refer to the Coroner for consideration and investigation.
Top Tip 8	My colleague Dr X has seen the patient in person or on video within 28 days prior to death but is not available to issue the certificate in a timely fashion. No other GP in the practice has seen the patient before. What do we need to do to issue the death certificate? Notify the coroner to consider the appropriateness of fellow practitioner from the practice/partnership signing by reference to the notes i.e. legally uncertified death. If another Medical Practitioner, with a licence to practice, has seen the patient during their last illness, they can view the body after death therefore circling A and sign the MCCD following the coroner advice.
Top Tip 9	I have not seen the patient in person or on video but another clinical practitioner (not GMC registered) such as advance practitioner, palliative care nurse or community matron has seen the patient in their last illness within 28 days. What would be the process of issuing the certificate? In accord with the provisions prior to the emergency legislation – only a GMC registered practitioner can sign the MCCD. Please refer to the Coroner for consideration and advice. (There is ongoing discussion nationally and locally about FAQ 8 & 9. Further information will follow. However, until then the above-mentioned advice is provided from the local coroner)
Top Tip 10	I need to contact the coroner urgently for advice to issue the death certificate. Is there a contact number I can use in these circumstances? The referral to the coroner should continue to be online. In case of emergency where urgent advice is needed please use the following contact numbers. During office hours, ring general office number 01274 438770 and ask to speak to the sitting Coroner. If not immediately available, leave contact number. • Coroners officer’s main office number: 01274 373721 • Coroners officer’s on-call out of hours: 07921 111489
My CPD	<i>Document the key points simply, reflect on what it means for me, so what?</i>